



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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LATE TESTIMONY

March 21, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

TESTIMONY ON HR 105
URGING THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE TO USE GREEN
COFFEE, INSTEAD OF PARCHMENT EQUIVALENT, AS THE BASIS FOR VALUING
HAWAII'S COFFEE CROPS

Room 325
11:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Chair McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF supports HR 105, which urges the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service to utilize green coffee as the basis for valuing Hawaii's coffee crops.

The Hawaiian coffee crop is currently valued as parchment by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Coffee is typically traded at wholesale as green beans.

By valuing the crop as parchment, NASS is undervaluing the crop both in-state and internationally. This places the Hawaiian and the United States' coffee industry at an unnecessary disadvantage when describing the value of the industry.

HFBF has met members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation in Washington D.C. specifically regarding this issue. Their support has been offered.

This request to change the valuation method was recently made the official policy of HFBF and that of the American Farm Bureau Federation, with its more than 6 million member families across the nation.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 6:35 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Testimony for HR105 on 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR/ERB 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM HR105

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James K Falconer
Organization: Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn
E-mail: jkimof@msn.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair and members of the Ag committee, Thank you for proposing this resolution to help the coffee industry better report it's accurate valuation. We hope that this reso and letters from our congressional leaders will make an impact on the NASS. Using parchment valuation to determine the crop value is archaic and needs to be updated. With a valuation to green bean, it will clearly show that coffee will rank much higher in the state's economic impact scale. Thank you again for supporting this.

Kimo Falconer, President Hawaii Coffee Growers Assn.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

LATE TESTIMONY
LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2012
9:00 AM
ROOM 312

HOUSE RESOLUTION 105
URGING THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE TO USE GREEN
COFFEE, INSTEAD OF PARCHMENT EQUIVALENT, AS THE BASIS FOR VALUING
HAWAII'S COFFEE CROPS

Chairpersons Tsuji and McKelvey and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Resolution 105. The purpose of this resolution is to urge the national agricultural statistics service to use green coffee instead of parchment as the basis for valuing Hawaii's coffee crops. The Department is a strong supporter of the coffee industry in Hawaii but does not believe this resolution may be necessary.

The Department has received a letter dated March 20, 2012, from Dr. Cynthia Clark, Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. Within that letter, Dr. Clark points out that using green coffee instead of parchment would likely result in little or no change due to offsetting factors. Furthermore, changing to green coffee would make historical comparisons difficult. The Department would be happy to provide that letter should the committee be interested.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:13 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: bobbibecke@mindspring.com
Subject: Testimony for HR105 on 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for AGR/ERB 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM HR105

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: bobbie becker
Organization: Individual
E-mail: bobbibecke@mindspring.com
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

This would be an outstanding change for Hawaiian agriculture. I am a coffee farmer and as such I can tell you that no one in our industry deals in parchment coffee. We do not buy or sell parchment coffee, we buy and sell GREEN coffee. If the state were to use the value of GREEN coffee in figuring the annual revenues from Hawaiian agriculture, the TRUE VALUE of the coffee industry would be seen. Coffee is a SIGNIFICANT contributor to Hawaii's agricultural industry.

Thank-you for considering my input.

Aloha, Bobbie Becker